

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2014

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

We read with interest your recent interviews with news outlets like the *Wall Street Journal* and *Military Times*.

You articulated a commitment to “redouble [your] efforts and make sure there’s good communication” with veterans and veterans-advocacy groups. You also promised “swift and appropriate action” when warranted following the results of a VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigation.

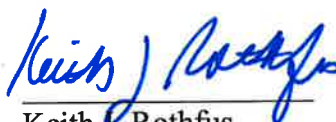
As committed advocates for veterans in Western Pennsylvania, we believe there is no better way to begin fulfilling this commitment than for you to travel to Pittsburgh and meet with the families who tragically lost their loved ones as a result of the legionella outbreak at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS). As you recall, at least six of our nation’s veterans died because of the outbreak, which the OIG determined (more than a year ago) was preventable and caused by systemic failures at VAPHS.

On May 3, 2013, Members of the Western Pennsylvania House delegation wrote you on behalf of the families of these veterans to convey their frustration and request that you travel to Pittsburgh to meet with them as soon as your schedule allowed. They also offered their assistance to facilitate such a meeting, but, regrettably, your response dated July 12, 2013 failed to respond to this specific request. To date, no visit has been scheduled.

We stand ready to offer whatever assistance that we can provide to make this happen as soon as possible. The families deserve nothing less.


Thank you for your prompt attention to these requests. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


Keith J. Rothfus
Member of Congress


Tim Murphy
Member of Congress


Mike Kelly
Member of Congress


Pat Toomey
United States Senator